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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Confirmation No.: 1983

Serge HAUMONT

Art Unit: 2617

Application No.: 10/500,874

Examiner: Christopher M. BRANDT

Filed: July 7, 2004

Attorney Dkt. No.: 060091.00329

For: SELECTING GGSN IN SHARED MOBILE NETWORK

PETITION TO WITHDRAW HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R 1.181(a)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 2, 2007

Sir:

Applicant respectfully petitions that the abandonment of the above-referenced patent application be withdrawn, and prosecution reinstated. The purported abandonment, as discussed below, was apparently due to a loss or mishandling of a Response and Petition for Extension of Time which were timely filed in the United States Patent & Trademark Office, on September 12, 2007.

An Office Action was mailed on March 12, 2007. A full and complete response, and an extension of time for three months, was filed on September 12, 2007. Copies of this Petition for Extension of Time, and the Response, are attached hereto.

Also attached is a copy of the PTO postcard receipt which lists all of the papers and items which were submitted with the Response on September 12, 2007. This postcard was stamped "received" by the United States Patent & Trademark Office on September 12, 2007.


For the Examiner's convenience, copies of all submitted papers are filed herewith.

The Notice of Abandonment indicated that the Examiner left a message for Douglas Goldhush on September 18, 2007, and that Douglas Goldhush confirmed the abandonment of this application by return phone call on September 19, 2007. As a procedure and firm practice, any conference call performed by an attorney with any representative from the United States Patent and Trademark Office is to be recorded or described in the file of an application by the attorney. However, there is no record in the file made by Mr. Goldhush documenting such confirmation. In addition, it would not be possible for Mr. Goldhush to confirm abandonment of the present application when a copy of the Response filed on September 12, 2007 was properly included in the file.

In view of the fact that the Office Action dated March 12, 2007 was timely responded to, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the abandonment of this application be withdrawn, prosecution reinstated, and the response of September 12, 2007, appropriately considered on the merits.

According to MPEP 711.03(c), no fee is required with this petition. Nevertheless, in the event that there are any additional fees due with respect to this paper, please charge Counsel's Deposit Account No. 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,


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AMC:dc

Enclosures: Notice of Abandonment (Copy)
Response Filed on September 12, 2007 (Copy)
Petition for Extension of Time (Copy)
Stamped Postcard (Copy)



MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Patent ☒

Trademark ☐

Docket No. 060091.00329

Serial No. 10/500,874

Filed July 7, 2004

Applicant(s) Serge HAUMONT

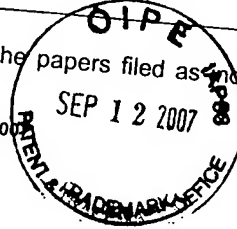
Papers filed herewith on September 12, 2007

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fees \$ <u>1,220.00; CkNo. 17064</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment w/ PTO-1595 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Application (Pages) | <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response/Amendment (19 Pages) | <input type="checkbox"/> Priority Document () |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Req. for Ext. of Time (3 months) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IDS/PTO-1449 (Refs.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawings (Formals - sheets) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Additional Claim Fee Transmittal (2 sheets)</u> | |

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of the papers filed as indicated in connection with the above-identified case.

AMC:dc

Due Date: September 12, 2007



COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Confirmation No.: 1172

Serge HAUMONT

Art Unit: 2617

Application No.: 10/500,874

Examiner: Ibrahim A. KHAN

Filed: July 7, 2004

Attorney Dkt. No.: 060091.00329

For: SELECTING GGSN IN SHARED MOBILE NETWORK

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 12, 2007

Sir:

Applicant petitions the Commissioner for Patents to extend the time for response to the Office Action dated March 12, 2007, for three month from June 12, 2007, to September 12, 2007.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of Twelve Hundred and Twenty Dollars Dollars (\$1,220.00) to cover the cost of the extension fee and the associated additional independent claim fee. In the event that this check is found to be insufficient, or if any additional fees are due with respect to the filing of this paper, please charge Counsel's Deposit Account Number 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

**SIGNATURE
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Encl: Check No. 17064



Case Docket No. 060091.00329

Date September 12, 2007

In re the application of:

Serge HAUMONT

Serial No.: 10/500,874

Group Art Unit: 2617

Filed: July 7, 2004

Examiner: Ibrahim A. KHAN

For: SELECTING GGSN IN SHARED MOBILE NETWORK

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application.

- ☐ Small entity status of this application under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a statement previously submitted.
- ☐ Applicant qualifies for small entity status.
- ☐ No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

					SMALL ENTITY		OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY		
(Col. 1)	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Col. 2) HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Col. 3) PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDIT. FEE		RATE	ADDIT. FEE
TOTAL	19	MINUS	20		X25=		or	X50=	
INDEP.	5	MINUS	4	1	X100=		or	X200=	\$200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					+180=		or	+360=	
					TOTAL		or		200.00

- ☒ Enclosed is a check in the amount of Twelve Hundred and Twenty Dollars (\$1,220.00). Except as otherwise noted herein, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any other fees that may be required to complete this filing, or to credit any overpayment, to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 50-2222.
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 50-2222. A duplicate copy is enclosed.
- ☒ Any filing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMC:dc

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment
Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
Check No. 17064



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Confirmation No.: 1172

Serge HAUMONT

Art Unit: 2617

Application No.: 10/500,874

Examiner: Ibrahim A. KHAN

Filed: July 7, 2004

Attorney Dkt. No.: 060091.00329

For: SELECTING GGSN IN SHARED MOBILE NETWORK

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

September 12, 2007

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 12, 2007, having been duly extended from June 12, 2007, until September 12, 2007, by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Amendments to the claims are submitted beginning on page 2.

Remarks are submitted beginning on page 10.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, and 14-18, cancel claim 3, without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claim 19 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a gateway network node for a mobile station served by a serving network node, in a system where at least two network operators may share a radio network and the serving network node, the system comprising at least two gateway network nodes, the method comprising

maintaining partner information about predefined partner networks, the partner information indicating that said network operators share the serving network node, and selecting a gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information,

wherein the selecting a gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information comprises

checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them;

selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network;

selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the partner information comprises direct or indirect indications of

the network in which the mobile station is located, and of the home network of the mobile station.

3. Cancelled

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the selecting a gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information ~~comprises selection step of the method comprises the steps of~~

checking on the basis of the partner information whether the mobile station is in a network that is a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator; and

selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is in a network that is a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator.

5. (Currently Amended) A mobile communications system comprising
at least one mobile station;
a subscriber register for maintaining subscriber information of the mobile station;
at least two networks to which the mobile station ~~may connect~~ when it ~~is~~ the mobile station is within the area of the network, one of the networks being the home network of the mobile station, the networks comprising at least one gateway network node for interaction between packet switched mobile networks and external data networks; and
at least one serving network node for serving the mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node,

wherein the system is configured to maintain partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of the home network, the home network sharing at least one serving gateway network node with each of the predefined partner networks;
and to

~~select the gateway network node by utilizing the partner information.~~

wherein the system is further configured to

check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them;

select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network;

select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

select the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

6. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 5, wherein the partner information is maintained in the serving network node to indicate the networks sharing the serving network node.

7. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6, wherein the serving network node is configured to compare the MNC/MCC mobile network code/mobile country code of the mobile station, in connection with the context activation of the mobile station, with APN access point name operator identifiers stored for each network operator sharing the serving network node, said mobile network code/mobile country MNC/MCC code indicating explicitly the home network of the mobile station and said access point name APN operator identifier indicating implicitly the partner information.

8. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the serving network node is also configured to connect a mobile station located in a mobile network that is a predefined partner network of its home network to the gateway network node of the home network.

9. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the partner information is maintained in a subscriber register.

10. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 9, wherein the subscriber register is configured to

check the partner information in connection with the location update of the mobile station-~~(MS)~~;

set the value of a “Visitor-PLMN address allowed”-flag to ‘No’ if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

indicate the value of the flag to the serving network node.

11. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the serving network node is also configured to connect the mobile station located in a predefined partner network of its home network to the gateway network node of the home network.

12. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the subscriber register is configured to

check the partner information in connection with the location update of the mobile station, the partner information comprising at least one network belonging to the home network operator;

set value of the “Visitor-PLMN address allowed”-flag to ‘Yes’ if the mobile station is located in a network that is a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator; and

indicate the value of the flag to the serving network node.

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the serving network node is also configured to connect the mobile station located in a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator to the gateway

network node of the visited network on the basis of the partner information, the partner information comprising at least one network belonging to the home network operator.

14. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 9, wherein the subscriber register is configured to

compare the mobile network code/mobile country~~MNC/MCC~~ code of the mobile station with access point name ~~APN~~-operator identifiers stored for each network operator sharing the network in connection with the location update of the mobile station; and indicate the result of the comparison to the serving network node.

15. (Currently Amended) A subscriber register for maintaining subscriber information in a system comprising

at least one mobile station,

at least two networks to which the mobile station ~~may connect~~_s when it ~~is~~ the mobile station is within the area of the network, one of the networks being the home network of the mobile station, the networks comprising at least one gateway network node for interaction between packet switched mobile networks and external data networks_s; and

at least one serving network node for serving the mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node,

the subscriber register comprising:

a first routine for maintaining partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of the network, the partner network and the home network sharing at least one serving ~~gateway network~~ node_s;

a second routine for checking the partner information of the mobile station_s; and

a third routine for indicating, on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station,

wherein the subscriber register is configured to

check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them;

indicate the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network;

indicate the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

indicate the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

16. (Currently Amended) A serving network node for relaying packet switched data in a system comprising

at least one mobile station;

a subscriber register for maintaining subscriber information of the mobile station;
and

at least two networks to which the mobile station ~~may connects~~ when it ~~is~~ the mobile station is within the area of the network, one of the networks being the home network of the mobile station, the networks comprising at least one gateway network node for interaction between packet switched mobile networks and external data networks,

the serving network node comprising:

a first routine for checking partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of the network, the partner network and the home network sharing the serving ~~gateway network node~~;
and

a second routine for selecting a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information;

wherein the serving network node is configured to

check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them;

select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network;

select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

select the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

17. (Currently Amended) A serving network node according to claim 16, wherein it further comprises a third routine for maintaining partner information.

18. (Currently Amended) A serving network node according to claim 16, wherein ~~it the network node~~ is the SGSN a serving general packet radio service support node of a GPRS general packet radio service network.

19. (New) A serving network node for relaying packet switched data in a system comprising at least one mobile station and at least two networks, one of which is a home network of the at least one mobile station, the serving network node comprising:

means for checking partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks, the partner network and the home network sharing a serving network node, and

means for selecting a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information,

wherein the serving network node further comprises

means for checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them;

means for selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network;

means for selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

means for selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 12, 2007 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, and 14-18 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 19 has been added corresponding to independent claim 16, but reciting means-plus-function recitations. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Stille et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0128028). The Office Action took the position that Stille discloses all the aspects of independent claims 1, 5, 15, and 16. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 1, upon which claims 2 and 4 are dependent, recites a method for selecting a gateway network node for a mobile station served by a serving network node, in a system where at least two network operators share a radio network and the serving network node, the system comprising at least two gateway network nodes. The

method includes maintaining partner information about predefined partner networks, the partner information indicating that said network operators share the serving network node, and selecting a gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information. The selecting a gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information includes checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them. The method includes selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network, selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network, and selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

Independent claim 5, upon which claims 6-14 are dependent, recites a mobile communications system including at least one mobile station, a subscriber register for maintaining subscriber information of the mobile station, and at least two networks to which the mobile station connects when the mobile station is within the area of the network, one of the networks being the home network of the mobile station, the networks comprising at least one gateway network node for interaction between packet switched mobile networks and external data networks. The system also includes at least one serving network node for serving the mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node. The system is configured to maintain partner information

about networks that are predefined partner networks of the home network, the home network sharing at least one serving network node with each of the predefined partner networks. The system is further configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them, select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network, select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network, and select the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

Independent claim 15 recites a subscriber register for maintaining subscriber information in a system including at least one mobile station, at least two networks to which the mobile station connects when the mobile station is within the area of the network, one of the networks being the home network of the mobile station, the networks comprising at least one gateway network node for interaction between packet switched mobile networks and external data networks, and at least one serving network node for serving the mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node. The subscriber register includes a first routine for maintaining partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of the network, the partner network and the home network sharing at least one serving network node, a second routine for checking the partner information of the mobile station, and a third routine for indicating,

on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station. The subscriber register is configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them, indicate the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network, indicate the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network, and indicate the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

Independent claim 16, upon which claims 17-18 are dependent, recites a serving network node for relaying packet switched data in a system including at least one mobile station, a subscriber register for maintaining subscriber information of the mobile station, and at least two networks to which the mobile station connects when the mobile station is within the area of the network, one of the networks being the home network of the mobile station, the networks comprising at least one gateway network node for interaction between packet switched mobile networks and external data networks. The serving network node includes a first routine for checking partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of the network, the partner network and the home network sharing the serving network node, and a second routine for selecting a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information. The serving network node is configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in

the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them, select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network, select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network, and select the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

Independent claim 19 recites a serving network node for relaying packet switched data in a system comprising at least one mobile station and at least two networks, one of which is a home network of the at least one mobile station. The serving network node includes means for checking partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks, the partner network and the home network sharing a serving network node, and means for selecting a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information. The serving network node further includes means for checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them, means for selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network, means for selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network, and means for selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

As will be discussed below, Stille fails to disclose or suggest the elements of any of the presently pending claims.

Stille generally describes a method and a device to determine which one of the owners of a shared radio network 6 that a visiting MT (Mobile Terminal), which MT 4, 5 is not subscribed to any of the owners of said shared radio network 6, is going to be connected to, by deriving information from the visiting MT 4, 5 concerning its identity. See abstract. Stille further provides a solution in which two MT's 4 and 5 are subscribed to operator X and operator Y, respectively. Operator X has an agreement with operator A, and operator Y has an agreement with operator B. According to Stille, MT 4 establishes a PDP context with the GGSN in the network of operator A, and MT 5 establishes a PDP context with the GGSN in the network of operator B. (See paragraph 0031)

According to Stille, one way to decrease the cost of the UMTS introduction is, by way of example, for two or more 3G operators to establish a shared 3G radio network. Some network elements are located in the home network of respective operator. Example of network elements in the home network is GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node) and HLR (Home Location Register). The GGSN is a gateway node that terminates specific protocols, and the HLR is a large data base containing information about all subscribers. The shared network must be able to pass outgoing packet sessions via the correct home network. (See paragraph [0020]).

Clearly, the description of Stille fails to teach or suggest that, if the mobile station is located in a predefined partner network of the home network of the mobile station, the GGSN to be selected for the mobile station is the GGSN of the home network of the mobile station. Specifically, Stille fails to teach or suggest, at least, “wherein the selecting a gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information comprises checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them; selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network; selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network,” as recited in independent claim 1. Rather, in Stille, the GGSN of the visited network (AB) is selected.

Stille appears to disclose that if MT2 is subscribed to an operator that is one of the owners of the shared network, the SGSN accesses to information about which operator and MT2 is subscribed to and which home network MT2 shall use. (See paragraph 0027). However, in this instance, the operator has to be one of the owners of the shared network.

Stille merely provides a solution where two or more operators may establish a shared 3G network in order to save costs. (See paragraph 0020). In contrast, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, a mobile station may be

connected to its home GGSN even when roaming, for instance, in a foreign country. Stille fails to teach or suggest, at least, “checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them,” as recited in independent claim 1.

In Stille, there are three scenarios regarding how the SGSN 9 acquires an APN 12, 13: Firstly, if the MT 2 does not provide any APN information to the SGSN 9, the SGSN 9 either chooses an NI from the subscription of the MT 2 or chooses a default NI. After that, an OI is added, making the APN 12, 13 complete. Secondly, if the MT2 provides an NI to the SGSN 9, the NI is verified for the user in question that has been identified previously via the IMSI. After that, if correctly verified, an OI is added thus making the APN 12, 13 complete. Thirdly, if the MT2 provides both an NI and an OI to the SGSN 9, the NI and OI are verified for the user in question that has been identified previously via the IMSI. If correctly verified, the APN 12, 13 is complete. (See paragraphs [0021]-[0026]). However, none of the scenarios of Stille teaches or suggests the checking and selection steps recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Stille fails to anticipate all the features recited in independent claim 1.

Because independent claims 5, 15, 16, and 19 includes similar claim features as those recited in independent claim 1, although of different scope, and because the Office Action refers to similar portions of the cited references to reject independent claims 5, 15, and 16, the arguments presented above supporting the patentability of independent claim

1 are incorporated herein to support the patentability of independent claims 5, 15, 16, and 19.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that independent claims 1, 5, 15, 16, and 19 and related dependent claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention recites subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicant further submits that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unobvious to a person of skill in the art. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that each of claims 1-19 be found allowable and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time.

Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMC:dc

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
Check No. 17064